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GROUP 330

5/Election

PATENT

File No: 6920/0A756

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Keiji KOUZAI and Junichi TANAKA

Serial No: 08/355,707 ✓

Group Art Unit: 3304

Filed: December 14, 1994

Examiner: S. Wong

For: SPORTS BALL AND PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF

April 11, 1995

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the requirement for restriction mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on March 31, 1995 the applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I (original claims 1-4) in this application. The requirement for rejection is formally traversed on the following grounds.

The invention of Group I (a sports ball) is part of the same inventive concept as the invention of Group II (claims 5-10) which is drawn to a method of making the sports ball of invention Group I. The method claims of invention Group II cover the

manufacture of the sports ball that is the subject of the product claims of invention Group I. By virtue of this close relationship, examination of both claim groups should not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. Because these inventions are part of the same unified inventive concept, claims to such inventions should be examined in the same patent application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the requirement for restriction and an examination on the merits of all claims in this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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